



USACE Invasive Species Policy

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Background

In executing Corps missions districts are forced with numerous and diverse issues concerning invasive species. Previously, no Corps nationwide policy existed for the prevention, control, and assessment of invasive species. The lack of policy has created inconsistencies concerning the prevention and control of invasive species across Corps districts.



Zebra Mussels

Photo by Everett Laney, USACE



Salt Cedar

Photo by Tonya Dunn, USACE

Purpose

The policy establishes consistent, nationwide guidance that will be applied to all Civil Works projects and programs. It compliments the National Invasive Species Act and Executive Order 13112. Measures to either prevent or reduce establishment of invasive and non-native species will be a component of all Corps Operations and Maintenance at project sites as well as a part of implementation of a Civil Works project.



Silver Carp

Photo by Auburn University



Emerald Ash Borer

Photo by USDOA

Policy Application

The policy is applicable to the entire spectrum of Civil Works programs and projects, and meets the spirit of the National Invasive Species Management Plan developed by the National Invasive Species Council. It supports the Corps Environmental Operating Principals and will be applied in the execution of all Civil Works Programs as follows:

- a. **Operations.** Operating projects will include strategies for invasive species in coordination with other Federal, state, and local agencies. Examples include Operational Management Plans, Navigation, Locks & Dams, Powerhouses, Real Estate Outgrants, and Contracting.
- b. **Civil Works Planning Activities.** Civil Works planning documents will address invasive species concerns in their analysis of project impacts. Collaboration with Federal, state, and local agencies will be maintained in developing those analyses.
- c. **Regulatory Actions.** A Department of the Army permit may include special conditions to require the permittee to control the introduction or spread of invasive species.
- d. **Engineering Research and Development Center.** The ERDC will serve as the research lead for the Invasive Species Program, share information concerning their activities, and solicit input for future research and development work units.

Invasive Species Leadership Team

The Invasive Species Leadership Team (ISLT) will provide oversight of the Corps Invasive Species Program as established by this policy. In support of the National Invasive Species Management Plan the ISLT will also provide direction to achieve goals and objectives that compliment the plan that are applicable to the Corps Civil Works programs and projects. The ISLT will also provide support for the exchange and sharing of information and to develop and provide strategic recommendation to the Corps and ERDC. Applicable regulations and authorities will be updated as needed. Team members are encouraged to attend their respective Aquatic Nuisance Species Regional Panel meetings as schedules and budgets allow.

Invasive Species Leadership Team members, responsibilities, and activities can be found at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/islt/islt.html>.